

MEDICAL CONTROL GUIDELINE : CARDIAC MONITORING

PRINCIPLES:

1. Continuous cardiac monitoring is a key component of a thorough patient assessment and treatment in the prehospital setting.
2. Continuous observation of a patient's cardiac rhythm ensures early identification of potentially lethal dysrhythmias and provides other information about the patient's condition to guide treatment and destination decisions.

GUIDELINES:

1. Once cardiac monitoring is determined to be necessary, observe the rhythm continuously and leave the monitor in place until care has been transferred to appropriate hospital personnel or as directed by the base hospital.
2. Document the rhythm. If a dysrhythmia is identified, attach an ECG strip labeled with the patient's name, sequence number, date and time.